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AGO D/A ltr 29 Apr 1980 ; AGO D/A ltr 29 Apr 1980	

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGDA (M) (14 Oct 69) FOR OT UT 693084

28 October 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 5th Battalion,  
42d Artillery, Period Ending 31 July 1969 (U)

AD505432

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 5b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT UT, Operational Reports Branch, within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.
2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

*Kenneth G. Wickham*

KENNETH G. WICKHAM  
Major General, USA  
The Adjutant General

1 Incl  
as

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    5th Battalion, 42d Artillery

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 5TH BATTALION, 42D ARTILLERY  
APO San Francisco 96530  
UIC W38SAA

AVGAR-C

4 August 1969

**SUBJECT:** Operational Report of 5th Battalion, 42d Artillery for Period  
Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (U)

**THRU:** Commanding Officer  
54th Artillery Group  
ATTN: AVGA-C  
APO 96491

Commanding General  
II Field Force Vietnam Artillery  
ATTN: AVFB-FAC  
APO 96266

Commanding General  
II Field Force Vietnam  
APO 96266

Commanding General  
United States Army Vietnam  
ATTN: AVHGC-DH  
APO 96375

Commander-In-Chief  
United States Army Pacific  
ATTN: GPOP-DT  
APO 96558

**TO:** Department of the Army  
ATTN: ACSFOR, DA  
Washington, D. C. 20310

FOR OT UT  
693084  
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AVGAR-C 4 August 1969  
 SUBJECT: Operational Report of 5th Battalion, 42d Artillery for Period  
 Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (U)

## 1. (C) Section I, Operations: Significant Activities:

### a. Personnel:

(1) The 5th Battalion, 42d Artillery remained assigned to the 54th Artillery Group, APO 96491, with the mission of General Support, II Field Force Vietnam. During the reporting period, batteries of the battalion supported the 9th Infantry Division Artillery in a General Support Reinforcing role; C/1/21 Artillery, 1st Air Cavalry Division Artillery, in a General Support Reinforcing role; and II Field Force Vietnam in a General Support role with priority of fires to the 5th Special Forces Group.

(2) Base camp location of the battalion remains vicinity YT 174003 (Bearcat).

### (3) Command Changes:

(a) On 19 May 1969, Francis A. Clements, CPT, FA, assumed command of Battery B from William H. Kale, CPT, FA.

(4) Normal S1 activities were conducted during the reporting period.

(5) Personnel strength of the command as of 31 July 1969:

	<u>AUTH</u>				<u>ASGD</u>		
<u>UNIT</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>	
Hq Btry	17	3	113	14	1	119	
A Btry	6	0	119	6	0	120	
B Btry	6	0	119	6	0	109	
C Btry	6	0	119	6	0	119	
Svc Btry	2	3	85	2	3	92	
TOTALS	37	6	555	34	4	559	

### (6) Critical MOS Shortages:

<u>MOS</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>MOS</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>NR</u>
13A10	E-4	20	63C40	E-5	2
13B40	E-6	21	94B40	E-7	2

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AVGAR-C

4 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 5th Battalion, 42d Artillery for Period  
Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (U)

(7) Personnel changes during this quarter included:

GAINS:	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>	LOSSES:	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
	7	0	128		11	0	138

(8) Casualties:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Killed in Action	0
Wounded in Action	1
Missing in Action	0
Non-battle Dead	0
Non-battle Casualties	42

(9) Pertinent medical services statistics included:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Total Patient Visits	455
Admitted to Hospital	11
Evacuated	2
Return to Duty	10
Malaria Cases	0

(10) Awards and decorations presented to members of this command:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Bronze Star w/V Device	4
Bronze Star	26
Air Medal	9
Purple Heart	1
Army Commendation Medal w/V Device	4
Army Commendation Medal	86

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AVGAR-C

4 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 5th Battalion, 42d Artillery for Period  
Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CBTOR-65 (U)

## (11) Judicial and Non-Judicial Actions:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>ART 15</u>	<u>SCM</u>	<u>S. CM</u>	<u>GCM</u>
Hq Btry	17	1	0	0
A Btry	1	0	0	0
B Btry	11	0	0	0
C Btry	7	0	0	0
Svc Btry	4	0	0	0
TOTALS	40	1	0	0

## (12) Reportable Accidents:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>VEHICLE</u>	<u>AIRCRAFT</u>	<u>PERSONNEL</u>
Hq Btry	0	0	0
A Btry	1	0	1
B Btry	2	0	1
C Btry	0	0	0
Svc Btry	0	0	0
TOTALS	3	0	2

## (13) R & R:

### (a) Out-of-Country:

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUNE</u>	<u>JULY</u>
Australia	8	10	7
Bangkok	5	6	4
Hawaii	8	12	9
Hong Kong	4	5	7
Manila	1	2	1
Singapore	2	3	3
Taipei	3	3	5
Tokyo	1	1	1
TOTALS	32	42	37

### (b) In-Country (Vung Tau):

	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUNE</u>	<u>JULY</u>
OFF	1	1	1
EM	6	6	6
TOTALS	7	7	7

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4 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 5th Battalion, 42d Artillery for Period  
Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (U)

(14) Commander's Notes: None.

b. Operations:

(1) Deployment of the battalion and missions executed from the beginning of the reporting period.

(a) Headquarters and Headquarters Battery: Located at base camp (Bearcat) throughout the reporting period with mission of battalion support.

(b) Service Battery: Located at base camp (Bearcat) throughout the reporting period with mission of battalion support.

(c) A Battery:

<u>Inclusive Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Mission</u>
* 1 May - 7 June	YT 174003 (Bearcat)	GS IIFV
* 1 May - 10 June	YT 096093 (FSB Megan)	GS IIFV
** 6 June - 10 June	YT 096093 (FSB Megan)	GS IIFV
*** 8 June - 31 July	XS 477984 (FSB Tra Cu)	GS IIFV I/F 5th IFG
** 10 June - 22 June	YT 489354 (LZ Rock)	GS 4/1/21 Arty
** 22 June - 31 July	YT 096093 (FSB Megan)	GS IIFV I/F PH AC

\* 3 Howitzers  
\*\* 4 Howitzers  
\*\*\* 2 Howitzers

(d) B Battery:

<u>Inclusive Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Mission</u>
1 May - 31 July	XS 826716 (Can Giouc)	GS 9th Inf Div Arty
* 28 July - 31 July	XS 654620 (FSB Steiner)	GS 9th Inf Div Arty

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AVGAR-C

4 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 5th Battalion, 42d Artillery for Period  
Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (U)

(e) C Battery

<u>Inclusive Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Mission</u>
1 May - 31 July	XS 547702 (Thu Thua)	GSR 9th Inf Div Arty

(2) A Battery Activities: At the beginning of the reporting period, A Battery (three howitzers) was located vicinity YT 174003 (Bearcat) with the mission of GS IIFV and A Battery Platoon (three howitzers) was located vicinity YT 096093 (FSB Megan) with mission of General Support II Field Force. On 6 June 1969, one howitzer was moved from Bearcat to FSB Megan, increasing the howitzers in that location to four. On 8 June 1969, a platoon of two howitzers was road marched to Cu Chi and further airlifted (12 sorties) to Tra Cu with an assigned mission of General Support II FFV with priority of fires to the 5th Special Forces Group. On 10 June 1969, (minus) (four howitzers) road marched to vicinity YT 489354 (LZ Rock) with assigned mission of General Support Reinforcing C Battery, 1st Battalion, 21st Artillery. On 22 June, A Battery (minus) returned to FSB Megan with mission of General Support II Field Force. While at LZ Rock A Battery (minus) was resupplied daily by airlift with a total of 26 sorties. The platoon at Tra Cu had been resupplied by air with a total of 234 sorties by the end of the reporting period. From the last reporting period to 25 May 1969, A Battery furnished an FO Party to the 36th RVN Ranger Battalion and from 25 May 1969 to 28 June 1969 an FO Party to the 6th RVN Marines..

(3) B Battery Activities: B Battery was located vicinity XS 826716 (Can Giouc) during the entire reporting period with the mission of General Support Reinforcing the 9th Infantry Division Artillery. On 28 July 1969, a platoon of 3 Howitzers was road marched to vicinity of XS 654620 (FSB Steiner) with assigned mission of General Support Reinforcing the 9th Infantry Division Artillery. B Battery furnished an FO Party to 18th ARVN Division during the period 3 June 1969 to 21 June 1969 and an FO Party to the 6th RVN Marines during the period 28 June to 31 July 1969. On 18 and 19 May 1969 the battery received and passed the semi-annual Combat Readiness Evaluation conducted by the 54th Artillery Group.

(4) C Battery Activities: C Battery was located vicinity XS 547702 (Thu Thua) during the entire reporting period with the mission of General Support Reinforcing the 9th Infantry Division Artillery. On 18 and 19 June 1969, the battery received and passed the semi-annual Combat Readiness Evaluation conducted by the 54th Artillery Group. During the period 27 June 1969 to 5 July 1969, C Battery furnished an FO Party to 1st Battalion, 48th Infantry, 18th ARVN Division.

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AVGAR-C

4 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 5th Battalion, 42d Artillery for Period  
Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (U)

(5) Headquarters and Headquarters Battery and Service Battery Activities: Both batteries were located at the base camp (Bearcat) for the entire reporting period. Their mission continues to be that of battalion and firing battery support and defense of the base camp.

(6) Ammunition Expended and Missions Fired:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>MISSIONS</u>	<u>ROUNDS</u>
A Battery	3,545	18,982
B Battery	367	7,411
C Battery	<u>1,041</u>	<u>21,682</u>
TOTALS	4,953	48,075

c. Training:

(1) Mandatory training was conducted in the following subjects: Character Guidance, Command Information, Clandestine Surveillance, Code of Conduct, Riot Control, Helicopter Load Preparation, Counter Sapper and COMSEC training.

(2) Integrated training was conducted in the following subjects: Materiel Readiness and Physical Security.

(3) All batteries are continuing on-the-job training and cross training.

(4) During the period 2 - 5 May 1969, the gunner's test was administered to firing battery personnel who did not take the test during the last ORLI reporting period.

(5) During the period 26 - 31 May 1969, an eight hour block of instruction on counter sapper training was presented to all battalion personnel.

(6) The following classes were administered to selected personnel:

(a) On 3 May, 23 and 25 July 1969, a three hour course of instruction on UCMJ was presented to battery commanders by the II Field Force Staff Judge Advocate.

(b) On 5 May 1969, a two hour class on helicopter load preparation was presented at base camp by the 213th Assault Support Helicopter Company for firing batteries and service battery rigging teams.

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AVGAR-C

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 5th Battalion, 42d Artillery for Period  
Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (U) 4 August 1969

(c) During the periods 4 - 10 May 1969, 9 - 15 June 1969, and 13 - 19 July 1969, seven officers successfully completed the Fire Direction Officer's School conducted by Headquarters, 54th Artillery Group.

(d) During the period 28 June 1969 thru 9 July 1969, ten enlisted men attended the Projector Operator School conducted by the 221st Signal Battalion, Long Binh Post. All personnel passed the course and were licensed.

(e) On 3 and 4 July 1969, a course of instruction on maintenance of the M-16 rifle was presented at Headquarters, 54th Artillery Group to battery supervisory personnel and armorers.

(f) On 23 July 1969, eight personnel attended a six hour field sanitation team training course conducted by the 20th Preventative Medicine Unit and 54th Artillery Group Surgeon.

(g) During the reporting period, 94 enlisted men attended the in-country orientation course conducted by the 199th Light Infantry Brigade at Long Binh.

d. Intelligence: Air observers from this battalion are airborne on a daily basis for the purpose of collecting and evaluating intelligence data. This data is compiled by the S2, 54th Artillery Group and distributed throughout the group. This information is used to provide intelligence targets and to up-date or reject previous information concerning enemy activity.

- (1) VR missions flown during reporting period: 93.
- (2) W/A missions flown during reporting period: 6
- (3) Registrations conducted during reporting period: 30.
- (4) Convoy coverage missions flown during reporting period: 7.
- (5) Intelligence targets fired while airborne during reporting period: 4.
- (6) Total air time: 188 hours 40 minutes.
- (7) Route Recon during reporting period: 2.

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AVGAR-C

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 5th Battalion, 42d Artillery for Period  
Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (U)

4 August 1969

### e. Logistics:

(1) Monthly deadline percentage:

(a) Vehicles: 4.6%

(b) Artillery 2.3%

(2) Ammunitions resupplied by Service Battery:

HE	10,514
ILL	816
Wx	416
ICM	832
TOTAL	12,578 = 812.6 tons

(3) Miles traveled by Service Battery ammunition trains during the reporting period were 23,420.

(4) Approximate tonnage of resupply during the reporting period:

Class - I	61.3 tons
Class - II	1.1 tons
Class - III	14.0 tons
Class - IV	122.5 tons
TOTAL	198.9 tons

(5) Number of sorties flown: 260

(6) Other pertinent information: None.

### f. Other:

(1) Civic Action: During the reporting period the following civic actions were completed:

(a) Two wells were constructed in each of the following locations: CAN XEO and PHOUC LOC Hamlet, Phouc Loc Village, Long Thanh District, Bien Hoa Province.

(b) The repair of the Thu Thua district high school located in Thu Thua City, Thu Thua District, Long An Province.

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AVGAR-C

4 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 5th Battalion, 42d Artillery for Period  
Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (U)

(2) During the reporting period the following civic actions were initiated:

(a) A one room school is under construction at XOM VUAN Hamlet, Phouc Loc Village, Long Thanh District, Bien Hoa Province. Project is 80% complete.

(b) Two wells are being constructed in BAO VAI Hamlet, Phouc Loc Village, Long Thanh District, Bien Hoa Province. Drilling has been completed and project is 85% complete.

(c) A school is being repaired in AP BAC village, Can Giouc District, Long An Province. Project is 25% complete.

(3) Patients treated in the MEDCAL program:

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>VISITS</u>	<u>PATIENTS</u>
May	2	100
June	1	75
July	3	147
TOTALS	6	322

2. (C) Section II, Lessons Learned, Commander's Observations, Evaluation, and Recommendations:

a. Personnel: None.

b. Operations:

(1) Construction or Improvement of Howitzer Parapet Floors:

(a) Observation: Much of the fill used for construction of parapet floors is unsuitable. During periods of heavy rain, surface forms a layer of slippery mud resulting in poor footing and difficulty in maintaining clean equipment and ammunition. Surface water does not readily drain off unless a system of culverts or ditches is constantly maintained. The replacement of these types of fill with sand eliminates many of these problems. During heavy rain, the sand retains a firm footing and surface water will run off rapidly. This works particularly well with a gravel base under the sand.

(b) Evaluation: The use of sand in the gun pit results in safer working conditions and improved maintenance and cleanliness of equipment and ammunition.

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## CONFIDENTIAL

AVGAR-C

4 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 5th Battalion, 42d Artillery for Period  
Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (U)

(c) Recommendation: Sand and gravel should be used in construction of parapet floors when available.

### (2) Battery Life:

(a) Observation: Life expectancy of lead-acid batteries used as radio power supplies can be increased by using them in such a manner that they are neither completely discharged nor overcharged. The preferable type is 12 volt used in the 2½ ton or 5 ton multifuel trucks. Two of these batteries supplying two VRC-12 series FM radios will work well with a 0.5 KW or 1.5 KW D.C. generator on a cycle of 15 to 20 minutes of charge every 2½ to 3 hours. This cycle will conserve both generator and batteries. The cycle can be varied depending on size of batteries and amount of transmitting in a given time block.

(b) Evaluation: Battery life can be extended by the simple expedient of limiting charge to short periods and use between charges to 2½ to 3 hours.

(c) Recommendation: That battery charging be conducted on a timed schedule rather than continuous charging or waiting for the battery to run down between charges.

### (3) Night Lighting Device for Gunners:

(a) Observation: Since the majority of artillery firing occurs during the hours of darkness flashlights must be used in large numbers. A problem is presented when the crewman must hold the light and work with one hand. The ammo handlers are handicapped by having to hold a flashlight while selecting proper lots of fuzes to be fired.

(b) Evaluation: Speed and efficiency would be greatly increased if some sort of lighting device could be developed that would free the use of both hands while working at night. This type of lighting device would also reduce the number of accidents caused by improper lighting.

(c) Recommendation: Recommend that a light be developed similar to those used by miners. This light should be designed for placement on the steel helmet.

c. Training and Organization: None.

d. Intelligence: None.

e. Logistics: None.

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AVGAR-C

4 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 5th Battalion, 42d Artillery for period  
Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (U)

f. Other:

(1) Prevention of skin diseases:

(a) Observation: During the past several months we have had a number of personnel develop serious skin rashes, which were treated with many medications without success. The rashes became infected and caused a loss in man hours.

(b) Evaluation: The rash was caused and sustained due to perspiration and lack of circulation of air under clothing, particularly under the arms and around the legs of the individuals.

(c) Recommendation: That all individuals be encouraged to wear shorts and sandals during off duty hours or whenever possible in order to prevent rashes from occurring.



GRADY L. SMALLWOOD  
LTC, FA  
Commanding

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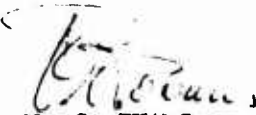
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AVGA-CO (4 Aug 69) 1st Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 5th Battalion, 42d Field Artillery for Period  
Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (U)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 54TH FIELD ARTILLERY GROUP, APO 96491 20 August 1969

TO: Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam Artillery, ATTN: AVFB-FAC,  
APO 96266

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the Quarterly Operations Report - Lessons Learned from the 5th Battalion, 42d Field Artillery and considers that it adequately reflects the operations and lessons learned during the reporting period.
2. (C) Reference Section II para b(1), Construction or Improvement of Howitzer Parapet Floors. The 54th Field Artillery Group concurs. The use of sand in the gun pit with a gravel base will eliminate many safety hazards for personnel in the operation required in artillery firing of a 155mm Towed Howitzer plus improving the maintenance of equipment and ammunition, especially during the rainy season.
3. (U) Reference Section II, para b(2), Battery life. The 54th Field Artillery Group concurs.
4. (C) Reference Section II, para b(3), Night Lighting Device for Gunners. The 54th Field Artillery Group concurs. A request is being prepared for procurement of such lights as an ENSURE item to be tested by 5th Battalion, 42d Field Artillery.
5. (U) Reference Section II, para f(1), Prevention of Skin Diseases. The 54th Field Artillery Group concurs.

  
V. G. EVANS  
Colonel, FA  
Commanding

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AVFB-PAC (4 Aug 69) 2d Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 5th Battalion, 42d Artillery  
for Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (U)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, II FIELD FORCE VIETNAM ARTILLERY, APO 96266 27 A-

TO: Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam, ATTN: AVFEC-RE, APO 96266

The quarterly report of the 5th Battalion, 42d Artillery adequately reflects the operations and lessons learned during the reporting period.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
A. E. STIPE  
Major, FA  
Adjutant

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AVFBC-RE-H (4 Sep 69) 3rd Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 5th Battalion, 42d Artillery for Period  
Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (U)

DA, HQ II FFORCEV, APO San Francisco 96266 7 SEP 1969

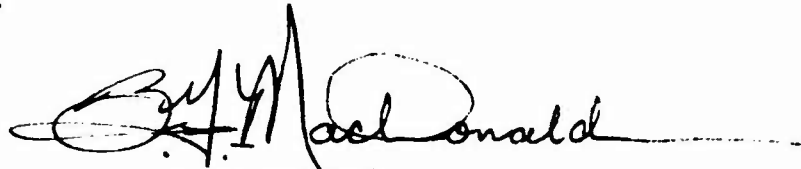
THRU: Commanding General, US Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC(DST), APO 96375

Commander-In-Chief, US Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT, APO 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the  
Army, Washington, D.C. 20310

This headquarters has reviewed and concurs with the Operational Report -  
Lessons Learned of the 5th Battalion, 42d Artillery for the period ending  
31 July 1969, as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
B.G. MACDONALD  
1st Lt  
ASST AD

AVHGC-DST (4 Aug 69) 4th Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 5th Battalion, 42d Artillery for Period  
Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco  
96375 - SEP 1969

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,  
APO 96558

1. This headquarters has reviewed the operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 July 1969 from Headquarters, 5th Battalion, 42d Artillery.
2. Reference item concerning "Prevention of skin diseases", section II, page 12, paragraph 2f(1); nonconcur. Shorts and sandals are only appropriate for off-duty daytime wear. Sunlight and air will help to reduce the rashes described; however, tropical uniform without shorts or T-shirt and loose but comfortable dry boots should be worn when cuts or abrasions to the legs are likely to occur. The complete uniform with sleeves rolled down is recommended for all personnel during the evening when mosquitoes become more active.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



C. B. WILSON  
1LT, ACC  
Assistant Adjutant General

Cy furn:  
5/42 Arty  
II FFV

GPOP-DT (4 Aug 69) 5th Ind (U)

SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 5th Battalion, 42d Artillery for  
Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 1 OCT 69

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the  
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

*C. L. Short*  
C. L. SHORT  
CPT, AGC  
A-4 AG

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